

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Contact: Craig N. Berke
(401) 222-8631; Mobile: (401) 641-6152
cberke@courts.ri.gov

District Court magistrate appointed

March 4, 2011: Joseph A. Montalbano of North Providence was named today by Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia to fill the vacant magistrate position in District Court. The vacancy was created in December 2010 when Governor Carcieri elevated Christine S. Jabour to the position of associate judge. The appointment is to fill the remainder of Jabour's former term as a magistrate, which expires in May 2013, and is subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Chief Judge LaFazia interviewed 7 candidates from a total of 20 applicants. She praised all seven individuals. "All of these people are competent and experienced attorneys," she said. "Each of them would serve the public well. Joseph Montalbano, however, is particularly well-suited to address the needs inherent to the specific calendars which he will handle. This position is statutorily responsible for the District Court payment calendar; additionally, this magistrate will assist on our civil calendar. Attorney Montalbano's regular appearances on that civil calendar and his tenure as a North Providence Municipal Court judge will allow him to make a seamless transition. His experience has provided him with unique insight into the economic challenges faced by many District Court litigants. His even temperament and knowledge of the law will serve him well as a magistrate.

"Attorney Montalbano, whose name was included on four lists previously submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commission to fill vacancies on both the Superior Court and the District Court, is clearly well qualified. He has a long history of dedication to public service. He will be an asset to the people of this State as well as to the Judiciary."

Magistrates possess limited judicial authority and oversee many procedural matters in the courts. They are appointed for 10-year terms.

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